

Applicants : Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: Not Yet Known  
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Page 4

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are presented for examination. Claims 3-8 and 11-13 were amended and new claims 16-21 have been added to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Applicants attach a marked-up version of the changes made in the claims by this Preliminary Amendment. The attached version is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes."

Applicants submit that this Preliminary Amendment will facilitate an early and favorable examination of the application on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: Not Yet Known

66112/RSM

Version With Markings To Show Changes

In this Version, text being deleted is ~~struck out~~ and surrounded by square brackets "[ ]" and text being inserted is underlined.

In The Claims:

Claims 3-8 and 11-13 have been amended, and new claims 16-21 have been added as follows:

3. (Amended) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1 [~~or claim 2~~], wherein the second filler is a known flame retardant filler, an inert filler or a combination thereof.

4. (Amended) A polymer composition as claimed in [~~any one of claims~~]claim 1 [~~to 3~~], wherein the second filler comprises at least one of aluminium trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide (or the ore Brucite), hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite.

5. (Amended) A polymer composition as claimed in [~~any one of claims~~]claim 1 [~~to 3~~], wherein the second filler comprises at least one of chalk, talc and glass powder.

6. (Amended) A polymer composition as claimed in [~~any one of claims~~]claim 1 [~~to 5~~], wherein the proportion of the nano-clay to the second filler is from 90%:10% to 10%:90% by weight.

7. (Amended) A polymer composition as claimed in [~~any one of~~

Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: Not Yet Known

66112/RSM

~~the preceding claims]~~claim 1, wherein the total filler content is from 20% to 80% by weight.

8. (Amended) A polymer composition as claimed in ~~[any one of the preceding claims]~~claim 1, wherein the polymer is PVC.

11. (Amended) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to ~~[any one of claims 1 to 10]~~claim 1.

12. (Amended) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to ~~[any one of claims 1 to 10]~~claim 1.

13. (Amended) Use of a polymer composition according to ~~[any one of claims 1 to 10]~~claim 1 as a char promoter.

16. (New) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 9.

17. (New) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 9.

18. (New) Use of a polymer composition according to claim 9 as a char promoter.

19. (New) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 10.

Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: Not Yet Known

66112/RSM

20. (New) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 10.

21. (New) Use of a polymer composition according to claim 10 as a char promoter.